

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

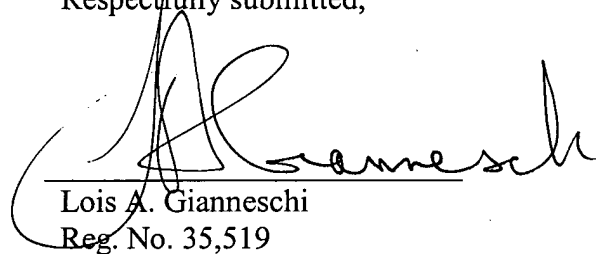
The Examiner rejected claims 1 through 5 and 8 through 20, 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Application No. 2002/0164484 (the “ ‘484 application”). According to the Examiner, the ‘484 application “teaches a multifocal lens ... where the lens has deposited on at least a portion of a surface of a substrate at least one layer of a surface forming amount of a high refractive index material ...[and] an inorganic anti-abrasion hard coating made of [Applicants’] claimed materials ...”

Applicants’ invention is directed to multifocal lenses and methods for their production. The invention provides for the manufacture of multifocal lenses by deposition of an inorganic high refractive index material onto at least a portion of a substrate, which material *itself* forms a near vision zone, an intermediate vision zone, or both. The invention also provides for the manufacture of multifocal lenses by deposition of an inorganic high refractive index material onto at least a portion of a substrate, which material *itself* forms at least a portion of a surface which is capable of correcting higher order aberrations.

The ‘484 application discloses the use of organic polymeric materials as portions of a composite lens. One layer of the lens may be a multifocal surface and is made “of a first polymeric material with a refractive index of at least 1.60 ...” The coating cited by the Examiner coats the multifocal surface. In contrast to the claimed invention, the surface formed by the coating layer does not itself form a near or intermediate vision zone. Rather, it simply forms a coating over such zones that are on the multifocal surface. Thus, the ‘484 application does not disclose at least one material element of the claimed invention and cannot be the basis for a Section 102(e) rejection of Applicant’s claims. Withdrawal of the Section 102(e) rejection based on the ‘484 application is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance.
Entry of the amendments, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of the claims are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lois A. Gianneschi", is written over a horizontal line.

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